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Holt nor Heath edition offer all the assistance required by our students for an appreciation of the wealth of allusion and the connotation of words and phrases that constitute one of the charms of Anatole France. Few young Americans have sufficient knowledge of the social and historical background to understand Sylvestre Bonnard himself, and even if they did, few would find him sympathetic or comprehensible. The kindly caricature is wasted on those who have never known the type. Even the title itself will never be fully understood and the pupil will remain as much in the dark as to its significance as Crainquebille did to the workings of justice in our modern society.

I would not imply that this or any other work of Anatole France should be put on the *Index*. To read him will always be one of the rewards for acquiring a knowledge of French. Let us hope that our teachers of French will all become better acquainted with Sylvestre Bonnard, with M. Bergeret, Jérôme Coignard, Gallion, even Riquet, but let us also hope that they will display a little more knowledge of the needs and capacity of their pupils. We do not have to revert to the fairy tale stage or resort to melodramatic pot-boilers, one specimen of which is so popular now and has been for the last two decades. There are, however, a sufficiently large number of excellent annotated French texts—and thanks to the publishers the number is constantly increasing—which combine all the necessary qualities to make them suitable for our classes in French and which should prevent our teachers using texts such as the present, the selection of which generally implies that the teacher is as indifferent to the needs of his students as a bishop *in partibus* is to his flock.

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JAMES F. MASON

LAWRENCE STERNE AND GOETHE. By W. R. R. PINGER, University of California Publications in Modern Philology. Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-65.

This little monograph on the influence of Sterne upon Goethe makes us regret even more than before the untimely death of Professor Pinger of the University of California, on whose work it is based. His brief introductory article and the material he had gathered for a more elaborate treatment of the subject have been carefully edited by his friend and colleague, Dr. Lawrence M. Price, who has added a chapter containing his own deductions from the data collected by Professor Pinger. The result is a clear and illuminating picture of the influence exerted by Sterne upon Goethe in all stages of his development. The most interesting part of the monograph is perhaps the one hundred and forty seven "references and allusions to Lawrence Sterne" culled from Goethe's writings,

letters and conversations, which show more vividly than the most brilliant article can do the part that Sterne played in the intellectual life of his great admirer. From 1771 when Goethe, fresh from Strassburg and his friendship with Herder, advises Jung Stilling to read Sterne, to 1830, when he last mentions him in a letter to Marianne von Willemer, we find him constantly rereading, quoting and commenting upon the works of Sterne, always with a deep sympathy for the man, a keen enjoyment of his ideas and of his humor and a grateful realization of what the men of his generation and especially he himself owe to the great British humorist. We have not time to trace in detail the influence of Sterne on Goethe in his sentimental period and in his recovery from it, in his style and his preference for certain words and phrases, in his ever-growing sense of the value of personality as at once the greatest force and the greatest happiness in life. All this and much more can be learned from this little book. But we cannot close without quoting the words in which Goethe himself, almost at the end of his long life, sums up his final judgment of Sterne. In 1826 he writes of him as the man "der die grosse Epoche reinerer Menschenkenntniss, edler Duldung, zarter Liebe in der ersten Hälfte des vorigen Jahrhunderts zuerst angeregt und verbreitet hat." Two years later he says: "Yorick-Sterne war der schönste Geist, der je gewirkt hat; wer ihn liest, fühlt sich sogleich frei und schön; sein Humor ist unnachahmlich, und nicht jeder Humor befreit die Seele." Again: "(Ich)bewunderte aber- und abermal die Freiheit, zu der sich Sterne zu seiner Zeit emporgehoben hat, begriff auch seine Einwirkung auf unsere Jugend. Er war der erste, der sich und uns aus Pedanterei und Philisterei emporhob." "Er ist in nichts ein Muster, in allem ein Andeuter und Erwecker."

Vassar College

M. P. WHITNEY

FIRST ITALIAN BOOK. (The University of Chicago Italian Series.) BY E. H. WILKINS, Ph.D., Litt.D. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. XIV+164 pp. 16 mo.

"A student takes up the study of a modern foreign language with one or more of these five purposes: to acquire a knowledge of the grammar of that language; to enable himself to understand that language as written; to enable himself to understand that language as spoken; to enable himself to speak that language; to enable himself to write that language."

"It is my firm belief that in the teaching of a modern foreign language to students who have passed the age of childhood the first several weeks should be devoted exclusively and intensively to enabling them to acquire a good understanding of that language as written and spoken; and that the study of the grammar as such,